

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Medal of Freedom

DATE: 7 January 1954

x460 1. I discussed today with Mr. Titus of the Bureau of the Budget the question whether any change to the existing Executive Order 10336 would be necessary to enable the Director to award the Medal of Freedom. It was Mr. Titus' informal opinion that the existing wording of paragraph 2(b) of the Executive Order would suffice, provided the Director were authorized by the President to make the award. In the course of our discussion Mr. Titus called Mr. W. O. Burtner of the Justice Department (code 197, X47) to obtain his opinion. Mr. Burtner is an attorney who rules upon the legality of Executive Order . . . Mr. Titus requested Mr. Burtner's opinion whether the President could legally authorize the head of an Agency not named in the Executive Order to award the medal on a continuing basis and Mr. Burtner gave an affirmative opinion. Mr. Titus suggested that, in the event we wish to secure such an authorization from the President, it might be well to clear the wording thereof with Mr. Roger Jones and Mr. Burtner.

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